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## SUNDAY SERMON PREVIEW

# 101 Reasons to Leave the Church

Dear Nelly,

Tina and I have some very dear friends who were a part of the congregation we served in Memphis and lived in the same neighborhood just across the way from us. They later moved to the Washington, DC area and we also later moved to Washington to serve a congregation there. They became a part of that congregation and when we later moved to New York City and several members of the family were already here, they also became a part of this congregation.

There are twins in this family, Anika and Nandi. I had the privilege of marrying Anika three years ago to a wonderful young man named Justin who was born on the same day and year as the twins were! And a year after their marriage they gave birth to a beautiful young daughter, Noemi and I had the privilege of lifting Noemi up and blessing her before the people of God.

Well just this past month, Nandi, the other twin received her PH.D in Sociology from New York University and became engaged to a wonderful young man named Howard. I am putting in my bid now to perform this wedding and welcome their little ones into the world in the not too distant future!



Everyone should have the blessing of marriage, family, home and the love, support and affirmation of a community of friends and neighbors. And so we celebrate and applaud on this Gay Pride Sunday the recent decision of the Supreme Court moving the nation toward full marriage equality, which makes all of us and America better. But I mourn and lament that the Court also saw fit to move the clock of justice back 50 years by sticking a dagger in

## This Sunday June 30

Adult Bible Study  
10 am

Children's Sunday School  
and Kids' Church  
10 am and 11 am

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION**  
11 am  
**Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson**

XY Factor Gathering  
12:30 pm

Lifeline Gathering  
6 pm

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## Service and Witness

\* The [Saturday Community](#)

the heart of the Voting Rights Act.

But back to the story, Howard who is engaged to Nandi is also an author and has written a wonderful little book, *101 Reasons to Leave New York*.

It is a quirky pop culture book that articulates the unthinkable notion of willingly leaving the greatest city on the face of the planet. It offers all of the funny, insightful, sad and silly reasons you'll ever need to justify doing so.

The book has won several awards and according to one of the reviews: "it is an acknowledgement of how the city can make you, break you or just take you for the ride of your life. Those who currently live in New York will gain a renewed appreciation for it, or begin to recognize they've simply had enough. Those who have left will smile and recall their own experiences. And those who still dream of calling New York City home will find all the inspiration they need to come."

*101 Reasons to Leave New York* explores and explains the Big Apple's tendency to be a little rotten in spots, from the point of view of someone who has taken a bunch of big juicy bites.

I love this book and as I read the gospel lesson for Sunday, I was reminded of it again and so invite you to join us as we explore 101 reasons to the leave the church. But there is at least one compelling reason to get in a hurry to be here and never leave!

The readings for Sunday: [Galatians 5:1, 13-18](#); [Luke 9:51-62](#)

See you at *The Park*!



Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson

**SUNDAY, JUNE 30 at 12:30 PM**

## PRIDE Parade

Lunch program welcomes volunteers every Saturday. Contact Rev. Luis-Alfredo to participate.

\* For information on free food and assistance programs throughout the five boroughs, visit the New York City Coalition Against Hunger.

Visit the church's volunteer webpage for more opportunities



### Donations

General Fund  
Flowers and Decorations Fund  
Stewardship Campaign  
Building Fund  
Sanctuary Book Fund

### short cuts

Worship Schedule  
Free Parking



[Church Video Channel](#)  
[Past Sermons](#)  
[Pastor Jackson's Blog](#)

[Lifeline](#)

[Arts at The Park](#)

[Music Ministry](#)  
[XY Factor at The Park](#)  
[Facebook Group](#)

[Interfaith Partner:  
 Congregation Da'at Elohim/  
 Temple of Universal Judaism](#)

Join with the group who will be departing from the church right after worship or go on your own to The Park Assembly point: 38th Street between Madison Ave and Park Ave. Assembly time is 12:30 pm however, the group coming from the church will arrive closer to 1:00 pm.

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 GoodSearch.com and  
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**EVERY SUNDAY STARTING JULY 7, Back of the Sanctuary**

## Sunday Morning Prayer Group



Pastor Jackson invites you to join him in the back of the sanctuary for a time of prayer for our church community, our city and the world. Specifically, Pastor J invites all of the Elders of the church to join him on Sunday, July 7th. But all are welcome!

**SUNDAY, JULY 7 after Worship, Sanctuary**

## Leadership Retreat & Holy Conversation on Mission & Worship



On Sunday, July 7th after worship there will be a Leadership Retreat and Holy Conversation on Mission and Worship. This retreat will be led by Rev. Donald Schell, President of the All Saints Company in San Francisco. We encourage all members of the Ministry Council, Elder Team, Deacon Team, Clergy and Leaders from the various teams at The Park to attend. We will be serving a light lunch as well as engaging in prayer, reflection, conversation and discerning ways to "move outside the box". To attend this retreat, please RSVP to [nperez@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:nperez@parkavenuechristian.com) or [kfracassi@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:kfracassi@parkavenuechristian.com).

## Quotes of the Week

*Prophets are those who take life as it is and expand it. They refuse to shrink a vision of tomorrow to the boundaries of yesterday.*

--Joan Chittister, 21st century

*The words of the prophets are written on the subway walls and tenements halls and whispered in the sounds of silence.*

--Paul Simon, 20th century

## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, July 7 - New Members Breakfast, 10 am**

Join us in the back of the Sanctuary to learn about the church membership, meet with others who are interested in joining the congregation, or simply meet others new to *The Park*. All are welcome to attend!

### **Saturday, July 13 - General Assembly, Orlando, Florida**

Mark your calendars and make your plans to join your Disciples family from the US and Canada for our biennial General Assembly. The 2013 General Assembly theme, "Lord, Teach Us to Pray," calls us to pray deeply for God's direction, strength, courage, and initiative in mission. It offers the opportunity for praying communities of Disciples to connect with each other as the family of God. For more information, visit [www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga).

**Did you know that there are scores of events -- bible study, concerts, committee, common interest, and self-help meetings -- happening every month at 1010 Park Avenue and around the city?**

**[Visit our website calendar](#) to find an activity that calls to you!**

EVERY SATURDAY - Saturday Community Lunch Program  
For over 20 years, *The Park* and its partnering congregations serve lunch to approximately 200 guests. [Contact Rev. Luis-Alfredo to volunteer.](#)

EVERY SUNDAY - [Lifeline](#), 6:00 - 7:00 pm  
*Lifeline* is a spiritual gathering for people recovering from all kinds of addiction, affected family and friends, and others who seek the promise of healing and restoration that only God can provide. Beginning at 6 pm, there is an hour of meditative music, prayers and speaker who shares his or her experience about addiction, recovery and spirituality. Fellowship and food afterwards.

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CLICK ON EVENT TITLES (WHEN [HIGHLIGHTED](#))  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TICKETED EVENTS

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**Park Avenue Christian Church**  
1010 Park Avenue at 85th Street, New York, NY 10028

Church office: 212-288-3246. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.  
[Contact us via email.](#) [Visit the church website.](#)

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Park Avenue Christian Church | 1010 Park Avenue | New York | NY | 10028